

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 30, 2004. The Applicants would first like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the Examiner's Interview. Claims 1-13, 16-18, 20-32, 35-37, 39-51, 54-56, and 58-72 are pending in this application. The applicants have canceled claim 14, 15, 19, 33, 34, 38, 52, 53, and 57. The applicants have also amended claims 1-2, 9, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 31, 32, 37, 39, 40, 50, 51, and 56 merely for the purpose of clarifying the scope of the claimed invention. Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Independent claims 1 and 20 and dependent claims 2-6, and 8-12, 14-25, 27-31, and 33-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Hekmatpour et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,720,007). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants respectfully submit that there are fundamental differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art. Amended claims 1, 20, and 39 recite, inter alia, providing the personalized business information to the user, wherein the personalized business information includes at least a first segment of information operable to navigate the user to a second segment of information stored at location remote from the first segment of information. For example, the present invention provides personalized business information for employees of a business entity. The personalized business information required to perform each job function of the business entity is identified. A profile is created for each employee defining a job function of the employee. The present invention determines what personalized business information to provide to each employee based on each employee's profile and the business entity's requirements for each employee's job function. The business information includes information provided by and stored on the business' system and the information provided by and stored on the business' system can direct the user to other information relevant to the business' information and stored at another location, such as

that of another business.

These claimed features of Applicants' invention are not shown or even suggested by Hekmatpour et al. Specifically, Hekmatpour et al. merely discloses a system for providing employees with a training and qualification process as well as on-line documents and services. All the documentation, training materials and services are provided by the business.

There is no suggestion or teaching that a user will be directed to systems not managed by the business. Thus, Hekmatpour et al. fails to disclose the first limitation as recited in amended claims 1 and 20.

Claims 2-6, and 8-12, 16-19, 20-25, 27-31, and 35-38 depend from claims 1, 20 and 39 respectively. Accordingly, Hekmatpour et al. fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim elements recited in claims 2-6, and 8-12, 16-19 20-25, 27-31, and 35-38 for at least the reasons specified above with respect to claims 1 and 20.

In addition, claims 18 and 37 recite the limitations of providing notification, wherein the notification includes at least one of: a dialog to users communicating updates to compliance knowledge, a dialog to users communicating additional training requirements, a dialog to users communicating upcoming examination, and a dialog to users communicating continuing education requirements. These limitations are not disclosed or suggested by Hekmatpour et al. Thus, Hekmatpour et al. fails to disclose the first limitation as recited in amended claims 18 and 37.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Dependent claims 7 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Hekmatpour et al. in view of Hollingsworth (U.S. Pat. No. 6,157,808). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 26 depend from claims 1 and 20 respectively. As discussed above, Hekmatpour et al. fails to disclose or suggest all of the claim elements recited in claims 1 and 20. Hollingsworth does not cure the deficiencies of Hekmatpour et al. with respect to claims 1 and 20. Hollingsworth discloses an employee based system that provides management of training and performance improvement. The system of Hollingsworth defines jobs including

duties, tasks and skills associated with each job. Employees are pre-assigned to jobs. The system of Hollingsworth provides training and performance processes to employees based on the pre-assigned jobs. Hollingsworth does not provide the personalized business information to the user, wherein the personalized business information includes at least a first segment of information operable to navigate the user to a second segment of information stored at location remote from the first segment of information.. Thus, Hollingsworth. fails to disclose the elements as recited in amended claims 1, 20, and 39.

Further, there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the references in the manner proposed by the examiner. There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings (MPEP §706.02(j)). Neither Hekmatpour et al. or Hollingsworth provides any suggestion or motivation to combine the cited references in the manner proposed by the examiner.

Assuming that Hekmatpour et al. and Hollingsworth may be combined in the manner proposed by the Examiner, the combination would merely result in (i) Hekmatpour's providing information to a user for an environment/job and employing a profile to determine what experience level the information for the environment/job should be provided; and (ii) Hollingsworth's defining an environment/job including duties, task and skills associated with each environment/job. Thus, the proposed combination of references is therefore deficient regarding the claimed subject matter. Additionally, as discussed above Hekmatpour's focus is to provide all information for an environment and not for respective job functions. In the absence of any motivation or suggestion to combine the references, and in the absence of any hint or suggestion in the combined references to disclose all of the claim limitations, Hekmatpour et al. and Hollingsworth fail to provide even a prima facie basis for determining obviousness of the elements and operations as now recited in each of claims 1, 20 and 39.

Claims 39-50 and 52-72 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Linton in view of Hekmatpour et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Linton does not teach the limitations as recited in amended claim 39 for reasons

discussed in amendments filed on February 23, 2003 and March 17, 2003. Hekmatpour does not cure the deficiencies of Linton for the reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 20 as anticipated by Hekmatpour. Claims 40-50 and 52-72 depend from claims 1, 20 and 39 respectively. Accordingly, claims 40-50 and 52-72 are not obvious or anticipated for at least the reasons specified above with respect to claims 1, 20 and 39.

C. Conclusion

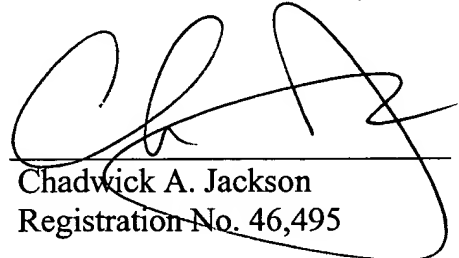
For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is requested. If the Examiner has any questions about this Amendment and to facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-5127 referencing 19046.0001.

Respectfully submitted,

Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP

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By:



Chadwick A. Jackson
Registration No. 46,495

SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500